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FBI-BUCKLEY (2 TAKES)

WASHINGTON, MARCH 5: REUTER - A HIGH-LEVEL U.S. DELEGATION WILL TRAVEL TO EUROPE ON MARCH 13 FOR TALKS ON EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS: THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE SIX-DAY MISSION, TO BE LED BY UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BUCKLEY, MIGHT CLEAR THE WAY FOR A U.S. DECISION ON HOW STRONGLY TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED SIBERIAN NATURAL GAS PIPELINE. U.S. OFFICIALS EXPECTED THE TALKS IN FIVE ALLIED CAPITALS TO FOCUS ON FUTURE WESTERN CREDITS TO THE SOVIET UNION.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT SAID MR BUCKLEY, ACCCOMPANIED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF TREASURY, DEFENSE AND COMMERCE AND STAFF OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WILL VISIT BONN, LONDON, PARIS, ROME AND BRUSSELS.

THEY WILL HAVE TALKS WITH OFFICIALS OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC) COMMISSION.

"THESE TALKS WILL COVER A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES RELATING TO EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS," THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE HAD BEEN DELAYED BY A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER HAIG AND DEFENSE SECRETARY CASPAR WEINBERGER OVER HOW FAR THE UNITED STATES SHOULD GO IN OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF A CONTROVERSIAL NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM SOVIET SIBERIA TO WESTERN EUROPE.* MORE 1720 WS

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FBI-BUCKLEY 2 WASHINGTON

DIRECT U.S. SALES OF PIPELINE EQUIPMENT WERE BLOCKED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN LAST DECEMBER IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGED SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW IN POLAND.

AT ISSUE NOW IS WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD ALSO BLOCK FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES OF GENERAL ELECTRIC FROM SELLING TURBINES FOR THE PROJECT.

MR WEINBERGER TOOK A TOUGH LINE WHILE THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARGUED U.S. OPPOSITION TO THE PROJECT SHOULD NOT BE PRESSED TO THE POINT WHERE IT CRACKED ALLIANCE UNITY OVER THE POLISH MILITARY CRACKDOWN.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID THIS WEEK THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS HOLDING INAPPROVED FOR RELEASE 2006/04/19 : CIA-RDP84B00049R000501000003-8 SANCTIONS ON OIL AND GAS EQUIPMENT UNTIL MR BUCKLEY'S RETURN.*

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